BLIND SPOT

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independent media centre

Activists set to take the capital

G-8 leaders hiding in the hills of Alberta, surrounded by guards

A CALL TO ACTION JUNE 26-27, 2002

This coming June 26-27, the executive board of global capitalism is retreating to the foothills of Alberta, Canada. Jean Chretien, George W. Bush, Tony Blair and the other so-called leaders of the industrialized world continue planning for war at home and abroad, surrounded by pristine wilderness, putting greens, and thousands of police and soldiers.

Last July, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators gathered in Genoa, Italy against the G-8, and were met with state-sponsored police brutality that included the murder of activist Carlo Giuliani. The Genoa protests were accompanied by protests worldwide in opposition to the agenda of the G-8.

The global uprising is led by grassroots movements in the global South. The recent popular rebellions in Argentina, Ecuador and Bolivia stand out as inspiring and empowering examples and models of resistance to imperialism and capitalism, in the face of violent day-to-day state repression.

And so, in clear opposition to the G-8, in solidarity with protests in Alberta and worldwide, and in ongoing support of local and regional grassroots social justice efforts, activists from Ontario and Quebec are making a call for two days of action in Ottawa — Canada's national capital — on June 26-27, 2002.

The two days of protest will involve demonstrations of all kinds, popular education, civil disobedience and direct action, targeting the many manifestations of political and economic power of the national capital. Organizers encourage a respect for a diversity of tactics, meaning manifold forms of resistance in mutual solidarity and respect, while aiming to ensure the safety and defense of all participants.

For more information / to get involved,

email: takethecapital@tao.ca
phone: 613-788-3310 (msgs only)
web: www.takethecapital.net

INDYMEDIA WILL BE THERE

The Independent Media Centre (IMC) network formed for the November 1999 protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle. Since that time, more and more people have become involved in making their own media to counter the corporate press.

For the upcoming protests in Ottawa, Indymedia volunteers have planned multimedia coverage of the events and issues. Print, radio, video and online coverage is all in the works — visit the Ontario IMC web site, ***ontario.indymedia.org***, for more. You can also publish your story on our website.

These two pages are the first in a series of print pages covering the G-8 meetings, protests, and the issues that surround them. **We need your help to print and distribute copies of these print editions.** They are available online in Adobe .pdf file format for easy printing — post a copy up where people will see it: at work, at home, on a street post, etc.

THE G8 – BREAKING IT DOWN!

A community teach-in about local and global struggles and resistance

June 14, 15 & 16, 2002

Panels, workshops and discussions looking critically at the G8's policies and their effects, including speakers from Africa and the Cree, Mohawk and Algonquin nations, as well as activists and organizers from New York City, Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Toronto, Kingston, Kitchener, Montreal and Ottawa.

June 14, 7pm

Ottawa Public Library, 120 Metcalfe (at Laurier)

OPENING PANEL: "The G-8 - Making the Links" with Patrick Bond, Aziz Fall, Pierre George, Nandita Sharma, and Sharon Venne.

June 15, 10am-6pm

Pavillon Lamoureux Hall, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, room 122, University of Ottawa

10am-12pm — PANEL: Economic Growth: Death by Capitalism
12-1:30pm — WORKSHOPS: Anti-Poverty Direct Action Casework; "The G-8 in 80 Minutes"; Anti-Capitalism and Cross-border Organizing
2:30-4:30pm — PANEL: New Colonial Partnerships with Africa and Canada
4:30-6pm — WORKSHOPS: What is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)?, Colonialism in Canada, and Attacking Global Governance

June 16, 10am-6pm

Pavillon Lamoureux Hall, 145 Jean-Jacques Lussier, room 122, University of Ottawa

10am-12pm — PANEL: State Terrorism: Wars at Home and Wars Abroad
12-1:30pm — WORKSHOPS: Immigration Direct Action Casework, Critically Examining the "War on Terrorism", Police Brutality and Capitalism, Resistance to Israeli Colonialism in Palestine
2-4pm — PANEL: Resistance and Solidarity
4-5:30pm — WORKSHOPS: Palestinian Self-Determination and Fighting Anti-Semitism, Know Your Rights, Understanding Plan Colombia, Video-Activism

A mini history lesson

Timeline of colonial imperialism, continued into the present

Fiona Cavanagh and Marika Schwandt are two Alberta activists who joined others from Ontario and Quebec on the Anti-G8 Caravan and Roadshow. *At different stops along the way they presented "The G-8 in 80 minutes"; this is a simplified version of the timeline they used in their presentation. (from April 2002)*

1492

Marika: "The first point being, '1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue', right? This is when we saw colonization begin in North America. The struggle for indigenous self-determination began when people began to be marginalized on their own land, turfed out of their own land, and exploited — their resources on this land began to be sucked out by these people who decided that since they got here it was all of a sudden theirs. We saw the beginning of black African people making capitalism possible, and this hasn't ended. They're still making it possible, through things like the new partnership for Africa's development. Capitalism growing and thriving on the backs of people who had no say in the matter, and this is a continued theme in economic development."

Fiona: "Many people are aware of the history of colonialism — Britain and how many countries have they colonialized throughout history, and continue to? Ireland is a good example of that struggle continuing to happen."

1944

Fiona: "1944 — after World War II is when more industrialized countries or capitalist countries stopped fighting themselves, and began to join together with the States leading the force in creating this group, coming together to exploit countries. So first it was industrialized countries fighting amongst themselves for wealth and resources, and now they're coming together .. And in 1944 you see the creation of the Bretton Woods foundations — like the IMF and the World Bank, which the G-8 countries control 48 per cent of the vote in."

Produced by the Independent Media Centre. For more coverage of the G-8 meetings and counter-actions, please visit:
ontario.indymedia.org

1975

Fiona: "1975 is when the G-7 was officially created, coming out of the whole financial crises that [were] happening, like the gold standard, the oil crisis, and things like that. So the whole beginning of all these industrialized companies again talking about global financial governance, and also talking about how to stabilize the economy, and that continuing into looking into third world countries' debt and debt crisis, so you see the creation of all the things that have led to the present."

Marika: "In the '70s as well, 1975 [was] around the time that economic disruption all over the world caused the G-6 to first meet. You were seeing a lot of rebel insurgent uprisings all over the world, in Vietnam, in Cuba with the revolution there, and in North America people were rising up too. 1968 is an interesting year to look at — with the massive thing that happened over in Paris, Prague spring in Czechoslovakia, the hippie and yippie movements in the United States and the Black Panther party in the United States. It was an interesting time and this was when the G-6 formed, to try and stabilize and control the world through global governance."

Fiona: "You also see a lot of military interventions by the CIA, again those industrialized countries coming together. The coup in Chile is one example, or in 1953 with Iran — Britain and the U.S. overthrowing a more socialist government and implementing a more dictatorship, for access to oil resources, or in Chile the Allende government was seen as radical or introducing thick slike — like welfare or basic human rights for people. The US intervention [followed], because that was seen as a threat to global capitalism. There's tons and tons of interventions that continue to happen in Central and South America, and continue to happen now — we're in the middle of a war in a lot of countries.

The present

Fiona: "The G-8 was originally scheduled to be happening in Ottawa, but now it's happening in Kananaskis, Alberta, which is near Calgary. The three big topics on the agenda for this year are Africa and the new partnership for African development, and the war on terrorism is another key topic, and 'economic growth', which is pretty broad, but I think that's what's always on their agenda. Those are the three key things being discussed at this year's summit."

Marika: "Out here [in Ontario] there's going to be a Take the Capital action. People are going to be converging in Ottawa to take on some of the symbols of the G-8, some places where the footwork of the G-8 is carried out on the ground. The CSIS office, for example, is one symbol, or the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, or just various embassies that are present in Ottawa — there's a lot of really important targets to take on there."

Fiona: "Another important theme is really making the links between globalization and war, because as we're seeing right now war is linked to globalization, and war is linked to economics, and making that a really important part of our discussion too. While we're talking about the G-8, we're also talking about the sort of war that's happening and how that's linked."

.. on travelling with the Anti-G8 Caravan and Roadshow

Fiona: "A large theme of the caravan is solidarity. What that means is that solidarity, because we're activists and community organizers from Alberta, from Ottawa, from Montreal, so part of that is being in solidarity with the local struggles in the different regions across Canada, sharing resources and building roots of resistance and communities of resistance."

Marika: "The most important thing I've got out of it is realizing the amount of resistance that's everywhere. It's just so exciting to see that there are people who are forming really genuine radical resistance in their communities in anywhere you can think of. It's happening everywhere, and they're very aware, they're connecting the very abstract ideas of the G-8, IMF, World Bank, etc., with what they're doing fighting the Harris government here. It's inspiring how many people there are everywhere."